

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method comprising:
maintaining digital records of software licenses for multiple groups, the digital records indicating rights associated with software licenses;
accessing a group administration application to set the access rules for members of a group, the access rules controlling the access of digital record data of the group by members of the group; and
using the access rules to determine whether to allow a member of the group to access digital record data.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the access rules can be set to allow some group members to see but not to modify the software license data.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the access rules can be set to restrict access based upon inputted field information to some group members.
4. The method of claim 3, wherein the inputted field information is a department field and the access rules are such that some group members can only access software license information associated with their department.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the group administration application can be used to require group members to input field data.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein selected access rules can allow a group member to access a digital record and adjust the rights associated with the software license.
7. The method of claim 1, wherein the group administration application is adapted to allow the production of reports concerning the software licenses of the group.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the group administration application is part of a web based application.
9. The method of claim 8, wherein the web application uses role based security.
10. The method of claim 1, wherein configuration information for the computers running the software are stored in the digital records.
11. A license management system comprising:
 - a memory adapted to store digital records of software licenses for multiple groups, the digital records indicating rights associated with a software licenses; and
 - a processor adapted to execute a group administration application for setting the access rules for members of a group, the rules controlling the access of digital record data of the group by members of the group, wherein the access rules are used to determine whether to allow a member of the group to access digital record data.
12. The license management system of claim 11, wherein the access rules can be set to allow some group members to see but not to modify the software license data.
13. The license management system of claim 11, wherein the access rules can be set to restrict access based upon inputted field information to some group members.
14. The license management system of claim 13, wherein the inputted field information is a customer defined field and the access rules are such that some group members can only access software license information associated with the customer definition.
15. The license management system of claim 11, wherein the group administration application can be used to require group members to input field data.

16. The license management system of claim 11, wherein selected access rules can allow a group member to access a digital record and adjust the rights associated with the software license.
17. The license management system of claim 11, wherein the group administration application is adapted to allow the production of reports concerning the software licenses of the group.
18. The license management system of claim 11, wherein the group administration application is part of a web based application.
19. The license management system of claim 18, wherein the web application uses role based security.
20. The license management system of claim 1, wherein configuration information for the computers running the software are stored in the digital records.
21. A computer readable media comprising software to instruct a computer to do the steps of:
maintaining digital records of software licenses for multiple groups, the digital records indicating rights associated with software licenses;
in response to input to a group administration application, setting the access rules for members of a group, the access rules controlling the access of digital record data of the group by members of the group; and
using the access rules to determine whether to allow a member of the group to access digital record data.
22. The computer readable media of claim 21, wherein the access rules can be set to allow some group members to see but not to modify the software license data.
23. The computer readable media of claim 21, wherein the access rules can be set to restrict access based upon inputted field information to some group members.

24. The computer readable media of claim 23, wherein the inputted field information is a department field and the access rules are such that some group members can only access software license information associated with their department.
25. The computer readable media of claim 21, wherein the group administration application can be used to require group members to input field data.
26. The computer readable media readable media of claim 21, wherein selected access rules can allow a group member to access a digital record and adjust the rights associated with the software license.
27. The computer readable media of claim 21, wherein the group administration application is adapted to allow the production of reports concerning the software licenses of the group
28. The computer readable media of claim 21, wherein the group administration application is part of a web based application.
29. The computer readable media of claim 28, wherein the web application uses role based security.
30. The computer readable media of claim 21, wherein configuration information for the computers running the software are stored in the digital records.